



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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State OES Launches New Credentialing Program for Emergency Managers and First Responders

SACRAMENTO – To further enhance the State's efforts to prepare and respond in time of a disaster, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has launched a new credentialing and training program for emergency managers and first responders through OES' California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI). The development of a statewide credentialing system will provide California with the ability to quickly verify qualifications of emergency managers and first responders who can be called upon to assist other communities during a disaster.

"Each community throughout the state has different training requirements, certification programs and identification protocols. This can complicate response efforts during large-scale emergencies when we must bring together different agencies from around the state," said Henry Renteria, director of OES. "Given the range of threats we face from natural disasters to terrorist attacks, it is more important than ever to have well qualified emergency responders who have all received consistent training."

This new program incorporates the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) – the state and federal frameworks for responding to emergencies. This effort has been coordinated with the assistance of local and state government.

Credentialing involves providing documentation that can quickly authenticate and verify the certification and identity of designated incident commanders/managers and emergency responders. This system helps ensure that personnel representing various jurisdictional levels and functional disciplines possess a minimum common level of training and experience.

"By providing a swift process for identifying qualified emergency responders and managers from across jurisdictions, this credentialing program further supports the State's ability to save lives and protect property during times of disaster," said Renteria.

The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), a branch of OES, trains between 7,000 and 9,000 emergency managers and first-responders each year in the field of emergency management, hazardous materials, and Weapons of Mass Destruction. Additionally, CSTI certifies over 28,000 hazardous materials responders on an annual basis through its 1,900 hazardous materials outreach instructors. CSTI offers training courses throughout the state and at its state-of-the-art training facility in San Luis Obispo, where a mock city and operation center provide realistic hands-on training for law enforcement, emergency managers and first-responders.

For more information about this program, visit our Website at www.oes.ca.gov and click on the Training or CSTI link.

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